

Message Text

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TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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SECSTATE WASHDC 4076
WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12851

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4)
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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION--MONDALE VISIT

1. THAI MEDIA MAY 3 GIVE INCREASING ATTENTION TO THE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S ASIAN VISIT, CARRYING WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON HIS ARRIVAL IN MANILA AND REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES PLANNED DURING HIS BANGKOK STOP.

2. PAPERS ALSO REPORT PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S MAY 2 REMARKS THAT HE WILL DISCUSS THE NARCOTICS AND REFUGEE ISSUES WITH MR. MONDALE, AND THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL LINE THE STREETS TO WELCOME THE AMERICAN LEADER.

3. TWO CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS COMMENT ON THE MONDALE VISIT THUS FAR. EDITORIAL IN THE INDEPENDENT AFTERNOON CHINESE-LANGUAGE DAILY THAI SHANG JIT PAO (THAI COMMERCIAL NEWS) MAY 2 SAID THE MONDALE VISIT TO ASIA DEMONSTRATES WASHINGTON'S "GREAT INTEREST IN ASIAN
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AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS. THE TRIP AND BILATERAL TALKS DURING IT WILL CLEAR UP MANY PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND BECAUSE OF NOT KNOWING THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE SINCE CARTER TOOK OFFICE," EDIT DECLARED.

4. FOR HIS PHILIPPINE VISIT, HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE THE SUBJECT, WHILE IN THAILAND AND INDONESIA, MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE THE

MAIN TOPIC, EDIT PREDICTED. IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL URGE THOSE COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY BUILDUP, EDIT SAID.

5. EDIT CONTINUED, "THE STRATEGIC PROBLEM IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AREA FOR THE U.S. IS HOW TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER SUPERPOWER. IF THE U.S. IS NOT VIGILANT, THERE IS A RISK OF THE VACUUM BEING FILLED BY ANOTHER SUPERPOWER. MONDALE'S MISSION IS TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE SITUATION FIRST AND THEN DECIDE HOW TO DEAL WITH IT. MONDALE IS THE NUMBER TWO MAN OF CARTER, AND REPORTEDLY IS MORE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING HIS DUTIES THAN HIS PREDECESSORS WERE.

6. "THE SUCCESS OF MONDALE'S TRIP WILL DEPEND ON HIS PERFORMANCE. IN ANY EVENT, THE U.S. SHOULD STAY IN THIS AREA TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER SUPERPOWER WHO IS LOOKING AT THIS THE REGION WITH HUNGRY EYES," EDIT CONCLUDED.

7. SIMILAR COMMENTS ARE FOUND MAY 3 IN AN UNSIGNED COLUMN IN THE PRO-PEKING CHINESE-LANGUAGE CHUNG HUA YIT PAO. COLUMNIST SAYS MR. MONDALE'S REMARKS IN MANILA THAT WASHINGTON SUPPORTS THE ASEAN AND PHILIPPINE ROLES IN THE REGION MEAN THAT "THE U.S. WILL NOT GIVE UP ITS COMMITMENTS. ACTUALLY, THE U.S. FACES COMPETITION FROM ANOTHER SUPERPOWER, AND STRENGTHENING ITS RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IS OBVIOUSLY PART OF ITS STRATEGY. THEREFORE, MONDALE'S REMARKS IN MANILA MIGHT NOT BE MERE DIPLOMATIC PHRASEOLOGY, BUT AN HONEST EXPRESSION FROM THE HEART," COLUMNIST CONCLUDES.
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